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Updating mechanism for software

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A computer has a memory storing a number of software applications, and a registration file, indicating which application versions are currently installed in the memory. A software update mechanism in the computer accesses a remote file server to obtain a release file containing a list of software applications available from the remote server, and compares the release file with the registration file to determine which of the installed applications have upgrades available. When a user se-

lects an application for upgrading, and the update mechanism accesses the remote file server to obtain a manifest file containing details of the application files required to form an updated version of this applications. The manifest file is used to determine which of the required application files are already available in the computer; and only those application files that are not already available in the computer are accessed and installed in the memory.

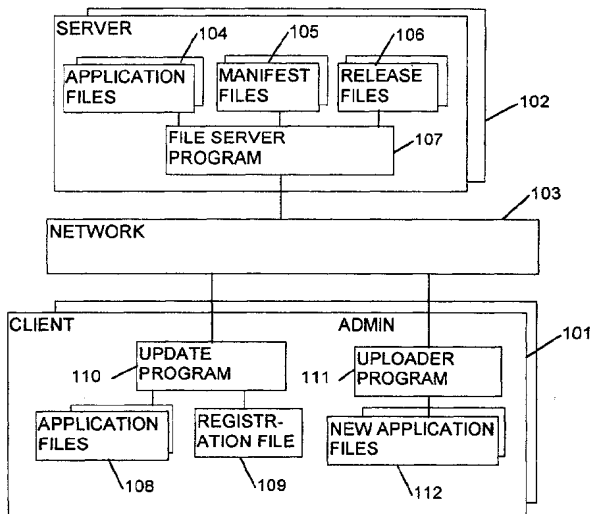


FIG. 1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 97 30 7138

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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search MUNICH		Date of completion of the search 21 March 2003	Examiner Lo Turco, S
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document			

EPC FORM 1503 03.82 (P04-C01)

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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